

VZCZCXRO5283
PP RUEHMA RUEHPA
DE RUEHRY #0518 2431533
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 311533Z AUG 09
FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3984
INFO RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHMFISS/HQ USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE

UNCLAS CONAKRY 000518

SIPDIS
SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [KDEM](#) [PHUM](#) [ASEC](#) [GV](#)
SUBJECT: TRANSITION MEETING TURNS INTO PRO-DADIS POLITICAL
RALLY

REF: CONAKRY 0514

¶1. (SBU) CNDD President Moussa Dadis Camara's meeting on Guinea's transition went forward today as planned at the People's Palace, although it started more than two hours late due to Dadis' habitual tardiness. Members of Les Forces Vives did not participate, in accordance with the group's stated plan to boycott the meeting (reftel).

¶2. (SBU) Pol LES mingled with the attendees before Dadis arrived, and observed CNDD supporters handing out hundreds of pro-Dadis t-shirts. Security forces had reportedly been instructed to only grant entrance to people wearing t-shirts or carrying appropriate identification cards (i.e. members of the diplomatic corps or government officials). An Embassy press contact reported that one teenager, who was not wearing a t-shirt, attempted to enter the Palace, but was blocked by security forces who apparently threw him down the stairs. The boy lost consciousness, causing surrounding civilians to start yelling at the security forces "see what you are doing again this year," referring to the violence perpetrated by security forces in early 2007.

¶3. (U) Dadis spoke for approximately an hour as he danced around the question of his candidacy. He did not make a formal announcement, but repeatedly expounded upon his right to run for office. The crowd frequently interrupted, cheering "Dadis, Dadis, Dadis!" At one point, Dadis responded by saying that he had "heard" the crowd.

¶4. (SBU) A number of contacts expected Dadis to formally announce his candidacy today. In anticipation, the city was crawling with security forces, both police and military, while youths gathered in anticipation at key traffic intersections. The atmosphere was tense as citizens waited to hear what Dadis had to say. A police contact told RSO that "there is a stink in the air."

COMMENT

¶5. (SBU) Tension was palpable in the capital today, although the city remains calm. Businesses located in key areas remained shuttered, traffic was light, and security personnel were out in force. Although the meeting was billed as a discussion of Guinea's transition, the rhetoric and general atmosphere were obviously political. Dadis' motivations for holding the meeting are unclear since he did not say anything new. He may have been wanting to demonstrate popular support for his government in order to bolster his position before the International Contact Group meeting on Thursday. He is likely under considerable pressure from his entourage and members of his ethnic group (Forestiers) to declare his candidacy. At the same time, it is increasingly clear that many Guineans will not support another military regime, and

Dadis may be worried about sparking violence. END COMMENT.

BROKENSIRE